



**Congressman Jon Porter**  
***Representing Nevada's Third District***  
**[www.house.gov/Porter](http://www.house.gov/Porter)**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 22, 2008**  
**[www.house.gov/porter](http://www.house.gov/porter)**

**Contact: Phil Speight**  
**(202) 225-3252 Office**

### **PORTER PROVISION TO ADDRESS MILITARY OCCUPATION SUICIDES PASSES BOTH CHAMBERS**

**Washington, DC-** The House of Representatives will send Porter's provision that requires the Secretary of Defense to establish a task force on the prevention of suicides by members of the military to the President's desk for enactment. Congressman Porter initially introduced this provision as an amendment in May, 2008, to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009.

"I applaud Chairman Skelton and Congress for recognizing the need to expeditiously address the rate of suicides amongst our military ranks," said Porter. "To my knowledge, the issue of differing suicide risks amongst military occupations has not been studied in any great depth. Colonel Michael Bartley of Nellis Air Force Base and Colonel Chris Chambliss of Creech Air Force Base have highlighted for me the unique mental health challenges that members of our military face who are on the front lines of the Global War on Terror."

In May, 2008, Porter's amendment was included in H.R. 5658, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 and went to the Senate where it was included in S. 3001. The Senate approved legislation returned to the House where it was approved yesterday. Porter's provision will allow the task force to study the rate of suicide by military occupation. Additionally, the task force will make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense to be incorporated into a future plan for prevention of suicide by members of the military.

"It is my hope that Congress and the Secretary of Defense will continue to address the pressing matter of the mental health strains inflicted upon our service men and women. This task force will help us begin to understand how the new technologies that allow America to wage wars more effectively, bring about unforeseen complications for the men and women who volunteer to serve our nation."

####